



gravel chub

Erimystax x-punctata

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae

Features

The gravel chub is a slender fish that grows up to 3 1/2 inches. The "X"- shaped marks on the back and sides are distinctive. A small cone-shaped barbel (whisker-like projection) is present at each corner of the mouth. The snout extends beyond the upper lip. The back is light olive green with a dusky stripe in the center while the sides are silvery, sometimes with a faint stripe. A small black spot is often at the base of the tail. The breeding male is covered with tubercles (bumps) on the head and front portion of the body. The mouth is small and located on the underside of the snout.

Natural History

The gravel chub lives in clear streams with swift current and a gravel bottom. It lives on or near the bottom of the stream, resting behind or under rocks. It is a bottom feeder, eating plant and animal material it finds in crevices on the bottom. It spawns in early spring in gravel riffles.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

uncommon; native

Iowa Range

northeastern Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.